

# The Visually Impaired Patient

## *Home Health Aides & Home Attendants*

### Satellite Conference

**Wednesday, March 16, 2005**

**2:00-4:00 p.m. (Central Time)**

**3:00-5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time) • 1:00-3:00 p.m. (Mountain Time) • 12:00-2:00 p.m. (Pacific Time)**

The aging population is resulting in a demographic shift in medical care. By conservative projections, 20% of the U.S. population will be older than 65 years of age in the year 2030 and 5.6 million people will be older than 85 years of age by the year 2010. One area of increasing concern is the functional impact of visual loss in the aged patient. Visual impairment and blinding disorders occur with increasing frequency with age and health professionals and family members should recognize that poor visual function affects other quality of life parameters including disability, falls and fractures, activities of daily living and independence, the use of community support services, sense of well being, and mortality.

Although there are many services and forms of technology available to enhance the lives of individuals with low vision, many individuals never become aware of this information. Many of these services and devices for the blind and visually impaired are not only beneficial, but many people are able to live independently as a result of using these services and devices. Most individuals with low vision can be trained to successfully perform even complicated activities of daily living with the use of adaptive low vision devices.

Insufficient knowledge by the health care professional or the family caregiver about what is available for the visually impaired is a major handicap for the patient. In many instances, individuals with low vision remain dependent on others, which can result in poor functioning, ill health, and depression in those with low vision. The objectives for this program are:

1. List four major causes of vision loss and be familiar with how they affect vision.
2. List at least five tips to help communication.
3. Recognize and solve a variety of home safety issues.

#### **Faculty:**

Mary Irwin, VRT  
Vision Rehabilitation Therapist  
Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services

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#### **Conference Details:**

**Target Audience:** Home Health Aides, Home Attendants and other caregivers who work with visually impaired patients.

**Registration:** [www.adph.org/alphn](http://www.adph.org/alphn) **Cost:** No cost. **CEU's:** None for this conference.

**Satellite Coordinates:** C & Ku Band.

**Conference Materials:** Posted on our website approximately one week before the program.

**Questions:** [alphn@adph.state.al.us](mailto:alphn@adph.state.al.us) or 334-206-5618

**Issues or questions you want addressed during the conference?**

Email ([alphn@adph.state.al.us](mailto:alphn@adph.state.al.us)) or fax (334-206-5640) the conference faculty. They will respond during the program.

**alabama public health training network**